



Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

3773 N. Kaspar Drive • Flagstaff, AZ 86004 • 928-679-8900 • FAX 928-779-6868 • www.naipta.az.gov

NEWS RELEASE

NAIPTA Introduces New Verde Valley Transit Facility and Verde Lynx Service

Cottonwood, AZ – Monday, November 9, the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA), in conjunction with their member communities of Cottonwood and Sedona, hosted a joint event to celebrate the opening of the Verde Valley Transit Facility in Cottonwood and the launch of the Verde Lynx bus service linking Cottonwood and Sedona.

The event was held at the new Verde Valley Transit Facility at 340 Happy Jack Way in Cottonwood, Arizona. This new facility will house the maintenance, operations and administrative functions for Cottonwood Area Express, the new Verde Lynx and the Sedona RoadRunner.

The ceremony kicked off with introductions by NAIPTA General Manager, Jeff Meilbeck. Guest speakers included: Virginia Turner, representing Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick; Joanne Keene, Governor Brewer's Office; Mike Normand, Arizona Department of Transportation; Supervisor Chip Davis, Yavapai County; Mayor Diane Joens, City of Cottonwood; and Mayor Rob Adams, City of Sedona.

Virginia Turner of Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's office said "Together, these important projects provide a public transportation solution which connects communities and keeps the Verde Valley working."

The highlight of the ceremony was a "ribbon-tying" by Mayor Rob Adams of Sedona and Mayor Diane Joens of Cottonwood. The two Mayors believe that "the Verde Lynx service will tie the two communities together, providing greater economic opportunity and mobility for residents and visitors of both cities."

NAIPTA staff then conducted a tour of the \$2.8 million Verde Valley Transit Facility which is a 100% solar powered facility, funded by ARRA (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). Participants also had a chance to "test-ride" one of the new low-floor, Spirit Mobility buses which will be used to provide 7-day-a-week Verde Lynx service between Cottonwood and Sedona.

NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line and Mountain Lift systems in Flagstaff, the Sedona RoadRunner in Sedona, and the RoadRunner Cottonwood Express between Cottonwood and Sedona. NAIPTA also coordinates services with Mountain Campus Transit at Northern Arizona University and Cottonwood Area Transit in Cottonwood. Contact 928-779-6624 or www.naipta.az.gov for more information





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Verde Valley Transit Facility Fact Sheet

- The facility will provide administrative, operations and maintenance facilities for Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT), Verde Lynx and Sedona RoadRunner.
- The facility will serve as the base of operations and the maintenance facility for 18 vehicles including:
 - 4 Sedona RoadRunner Trolleys
 - 2 Verde Lynx ARBOC low floor buses
 - 9 CAT buses used for fixed route, dial-a-ride and paratransit services
 - 2 Accessible mini vans
 - 1 RoadRunner paratransit vehicle
- Twenty-two employees will work out of the new facility.
 - 13 CAT employees
 - 9 NAIPTA employees who operate Verde Lynx and Sedona RoadRunner
- Construction of the facility was funded by a \$2.8 million ARRA allocation.
- The 2000+ square foot facility is 100% solar-powered in keeping with NAIPTA's commitment to clean air technologies. It has 15KW Solar Panels with enough solar power to offset the entire facility's power needs.
- Other features of the facility include:
 - Administrative and Operations Center Offices, including specially equipped money counting and IT rooms.
 - Large well equipped maintenance bay with room to expand.
 - Mechanic's office and parts storage.
 - Bus Shade structure for 16 buses.
 - Wash pad for bus washing.
 - Reclaimed water for landscaping, toilets and bus washing.
 - Paved parking lots and lighting.
 - Fuel tanks and fueling facilities.
 - Full security camera and alarm system.



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Verde Lynx Fact Sheet

- Verde Lynx bus service between Cottonwood and Sedona begins November 9.
- Service will operate 7-days-a-week - 8 roundtrips per day, Monday through Saturday, and 3 roundtrips on Sunday. Service will begin as early as 6 a.m. and run until evening hours. (A complete schedule enclosed and is available at verdelynx.az.gov.)
- The fare for Verde Lynx will be \$2.00 for each one-way trip, or \$40.00 per month for unlimited use.
- Free Park & Ride facilities are provided at Garrison Park in Cottonwood and at the Sedona Municipal Parking Lot. Riders can also connect to Verde Lynx from Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Verde Village via Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) and in Sedona, via the RoadRunner free shuttle.
- Verde Lynx will operate using two Spirit Mobility ARBOC buses. These are 25-seat, low floor buses. They are equipped with full air-ride suspension and "theater seating" for passenger comfort, bike racks, and a wheelchair ramp that allows for easy loading and unloading of wheelchairs and strollers through a 42-inch electric door.
- The buses and bus stops will be distinctly branded in green and brown with the Verde Lynx logo making it easy for riders to identify the new intercity service.
- The buses were purchased with funding made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and cost approximately \$134,000 each.
- Verde Lynx will be operated by the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA), out of their new Verde Valley Transit Facility in Cottonwood.
- NAIPTA has operated a very limited service (the Cottonwood Express) between Cottonwood and Sedona for the last two years. Verde Lynx will replace this service and will offer many more trips (8 instead of 2 or 3), more comfortable buses and expanded bus stops.
- Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA General Manager notes, "There has been an increasing demand for public transit between Cottonwood and Sedona. We are confident that Verde Lynx will benefit residents of both Cottonwood and Sedona, as it will make commuting for employment as well as recreational trips between the two communities easier than ever. We are particularly pleased to begin the service in early November, so that people will be able to take advantage of Verde Lynx during the holiday season."



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The new Verde Valley Transit Facility will provide operations, maintenance and administrative facilities for Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT), Verde Lynx and the Sedona RoadRunner.



A Verde Lynx bus leaves Arizona Bus Sales in Phoenix on Friday, November 6 to travel to Cottonwood, “just in time” to begin service on Monday morning.



Verde Lynx bus and bus stop in Cottonwood.



The new Verde Lynx bus was put into service on Sunday morning for its “shake down” run. Passengers headed for Sedona were excited to be the first riders on the new bus.